

Ms. BORDALLO. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I would note that we are taking up H.R. 1515 when a Senate-passed measure, S. 207, sponsored by Senator LANDRIEU and dealing with the same subject, was referred to the Resources Committee well over a year ago. However, we will not object to the adoption of H.R. 1515 by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of the bill, Mr. JINDAL.

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for yielding me this time and for their support of this important legislation.

The legislation in its amended form on the House floor is now supported by not only the entire Louisiana delegation but the Jefferson Parish Council, the Town of Jean Lafitte, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, the League of Women Voters, Marrero Land, as well as the Louisiana Audubon Council.

Now, I will just very briefly state for my colleagues why this is such an important bill for the State of Louisiana. This bill not only expands the preserve by over 3,900 acres, but it does a lot to protect Louisiana's important wetlands. Studies by our scientists have shown, since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the importance of wetlands as natural hurricane buffers which protect our levees.

While these wetlands cannot prevent the devastating effects of major hurricanes like Katrina and Rita, they are known to significantly reduce the storm surges associated with the more frequent tropical storms and smaller hurricanes. They absorb the energy. They reduce the hurricane surges, and as a result, they reduce some of the loss from the open water. Some experts believe that for every linear mile of wetlands, 2 to 4 miles of coastal wetlands reduces storm surge by a foot. Anybody that saw the devastating flooding last year caused by Katrina and Rita certainly understands why this is so important.

The preserve is a natural hurricane buffer that provides significant protection for the greater New Orleans area, particularly for the 500,000 residents of the west bank of Jefferson Parish.

I will close by saying this preserve in particular lies outside of the levees and so serves as a critical estuary for our wildlife, but also is a significant protection against hurricane and tidal surges.

I thank my colleagues for their support.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1515, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDERNESS ACT OF 2006

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5059) to designate the Wild River Wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest in the State of New Hampshire, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5059

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "New Hampshire Wilderness Act of 2006".

#### SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF WILD RIVER WILDERNESS, WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain National Forest System land in the White Mountain National Forest in the State of New Hampshire, comprising approximately 23,700 acres, as depicted on the map entitled "Proposed Wild River Wilderness—White Mountain National Forest", dated February 6, 2006, is designated as wilderness and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, which shall be known as the "Wild River Wilderness".

(b) MAP AND DESCRIPTION.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service (in this section referred to as the "Secretary"), shall file a map and a legal description of the Wild River Wilderness with the committees of appropriate jurisdiction in the Senate and the House of Representatives. The map and legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description. The map and legal description shall be filed and made available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall administer the Wild River Wilderness in accordance with laws applicable to the White Mountain National Forest and the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that, with respect to the Wild River Wilderness, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this section affects any jurisdiction or responsibility of the State of New Hampshire with respect to wildlife and fish in the State.

(e) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land in the Wild River Wilderness are withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under the mineral leasing laws (including geothermal leasing laws).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I commend Congressman BASS for introducing this legislation to designate within his district 23,700 acres of new wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest. The Wild River Wilderness created in this bill was developed with the Forest Service through their forest planning process and with substantial input and involvement from the public and local interest groups. Since it has the strong support of New Hampshire's citizens, environmental groups, the forest products industry, elected officials, the Forest Service, and the administration, it deserves our support as well.

I urge you to vote in favor of H.R. 5059.

I include an exchange of letters with Chairman GOODLATTE of the Agriculture Committee on this bill and related H.R. 5062 and thank the chairman for his cooperation in scheduling this bill and H.R. 5062 today.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,

Washington, DC, September 25, 2006.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I ask your help in scheduling H.R. 5059 and H.R. 5062, two bills which establish wilderness areas in the State of New Hampshire, for consideration by the House of Representatives as soon as possible. H.R. 5059, authored by Congressman Charles Bass, and H.R. 5062, authored by Congressman Jeb Bradley, were both referred primarily to the Committee on Resources and additionally to the Committee on Agriculture. The bills implement two recent Forest Service recommendations for wilderness areas in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, H.R. 5059, the Wild River Wilderness, and H.R. 5062, the Sandwich Range Wilderness.

In hope that the Senate will be able to act on these bills this Congress, I ask that you allow the Committee on Agriculture to be discharged from further consideration of the bills. This action would not be considered as precedent for any future referrals of similar measures or seen as affecting your Committee's jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bills. Moreover, if the bills are conferenced with the Senate, I would support naming Agriculture Committee members to any conference committee.

I look forward to your response and would be pleased to include it and this letter in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of the bills by the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, September 25, 2006.

Hon. RICHARD POMBO,  
Chairman, House Committee on Resources,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand your wish to expedite H.R. 5059 and H.R. 5062, which establish the Wild River Wilderness and the Sandwich Range Wilderness, respectively. The Committee on Agriculture received referrals for H.R. 5059 and H.R. 5062, both entitled the New Hampshire Wilderness Act of 2006.

Because of your wish to expedite this legislation and the history of cooperation between our Committees on these matters, I will agree to discharge H.R. 5059 and H.R. 5062 from further consideration by the Committee on Agriculture. The Committee on Agriculture will discharge the bill with the understanding that discharge does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over this issue or similar measures. Furthermore, in the event a conference with the Senate is requested on this matter, the Committee on Agriculture reserves the right to seek appointment of conferees.

Again, I am grateful for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,  
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, since this bill was introduced in March, there has been no action on it by the Resources Committee. It would appear then that the impetus for movement on the legislation is the fact that the Senate last week passed S. 2463, which includes in part the wilderness designation provided for by H.R. 5059.

The wilderness designation made by H.R. 5059 is clean and would result in the protection of 23,700 acres of national forest land. As such, we have no objection to the adoption of the legislation by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY).

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues from Guam and New Mexico for their support of this legislation.

This legislation was sponsored by my colleague Congressman BASS, who is unable to be here today. As the gentleman from New Mexico stated, it has broad support in New Hampshire. In fact, we are not aware of any opposition whatsoever. It has the support of a number of environmental groups as well as interested businesses that are in the forest products industry. It was a result of consensus among all of the interested parties in New Hampshire, and I urge its adoption.

Also, on a personal note, having hiked extensively in this area of the White Mountain National Forest, it is

a worthy candidate for wilderness designation. It is one of the most beautiful areas of our State, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill unanimously.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5059.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDERNESS ACT OF 2006

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5062) to designate as wilderness certain National Forest System land in the State of New Hampshire.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5062

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "New Hampshire Wilderness Act of 2006".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(2) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of New Hampshire.

#### SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS.

In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 10,800 acres, as depicted on the map entitled "Proposed Sandwich Range Wilderness Additions—White Mountain National Forest", dated February 6, 2006, is designated as wilderness and incorporated in the Sandwich Range Wilderness, as designated by the New Hampshire Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-323; 98 Stat. 259).

#### SEC. 4. MAP AND DESCRIPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and a legal description of the wilderness area designated by section 3 with the committees of appropriate jurisdiction in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(b) FORCE AND EFFECT.—A map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may

correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall be filed and made available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

#### SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness area designated under this section shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with—

(1) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(2) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE OF WILDERNESS ACT.—With respect to the wilderness area designated by this Act, any reference in the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this Act affects any jurisdiction or responsibility of the State with respect to wildlife and fish in the State.

(d) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land in the wilderness area designated by section 3 are withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under the mineral leasing laws (including geothermal leasing laws).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank Representative BRADLEY for introducing his legislation to designate, within his district, 10,800 acres of new wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest. The Sandwich Range Wilderness additions proposed in this bill were developed with the Forest Service through their forest planning process and with substantial input and involvement from the public and local interest groups. Since it has the strong support of New Hampshire's citizens, environmental groups, the forest products industry, elected officials, the Forest Service, and administration, it deserves our support as well.

I urge you to vote in favor of H.R. 5062.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, like the bill we just considered, this measure also deals with the wilderness designation in New Hampshire and there has been no action on it by the Resources Committee. Legislation that the Senate passed last week, S. 2463, also includes the wilderness designation provided for by H.R. 5062.